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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/733,321	12/12/2003	Dennis Erickson	S758 0002/TAR	9077

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EXAMINER

CHAPMAN, JEANETTE E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3633

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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02/21/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/733,321

Applicant(s)

ERICKSON ET AL.

Examiner

Jeanette E. Chapman

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) 1-7, 12-18, 20-41, 43-45 and 47-55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 15, 17, 20, 27, 28, 31, 32 and 34-40 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7, 12-14, 18, 21-26, 29, 30, 41, 43-45 and 47-55 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 5/24/04, 12/12/03.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art. 2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue. 3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art. 4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 1-7,12-14,16,18,21-26,29,30,41,43-45,47-55 are rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over "STEELER INC.- Deflection Track" in view of Andrews (7223043) and Simon (3999875).

In reference to claims 1,43,47,53-55, "STEELER INC. - Deflection Track" discloses a track including a web (W) and one or more deformable legs (L), having a deformable portion (D) at a distal edge thereof with three bends. "STEELER INC. - Deflection Track" discloses the basic claimed track except for the particulars of the deformable portion. Simon teaches the use of a track (10) wherein the deformable portion includes at least four bends (E,G,I,K) and (FHJL). Simon further includes the four longitudinal extending bend lines and the four bends extending longitudinally to be substantially longitudinally coextensive with the legs. Further the groove associated with the bend lines extends in the longitudinal direction to be substantially longitudinally coextensive with the legs.

Andrews discloses a track with a web 11 and legs 13 and 14. Each leg includes a deformable portion 20 and 21 located between the web 11 and the distal ends of the legs. The deformable portion is bent along three longitudinally extending bend lines. Each of the bends is compressible to reduce the interior angle and expandable to increase its interior angle. See column 10, lines 39-44 and see figure 6. Further the deformation of the deformable portion of each leg is accompanied by relative movement of the distal edge of the leg in a direction towards the web or in a direction away from the web; see figure 6

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the track of "STEELER INC. - Deflection Track" with the deformable portion

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and with the four bend portions of Simon in order to provide the track with more versatility in bending.

Regarding claims 2,12,21,41,45,48, the deformable portion (D) consists of a unitary piece of material and is resiliently deformable using one or more legs.

In reference to claims 3,5-7,18, 20,34,43,44,47,49,50-55, the deformable portion (D) allows the track to compress in the longitudinal direction and expand orthogonally. Andrews shows the each deformable groove being compressible in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction and expandable in a direction orthogonal to the longitudinal direction. See figure 6.

In regards to the angles formed in the deformable portion, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to select an angle suitable for the use intended as an obvious matter of design choice. For instance, in areas where earthquakes are common perhaps an angle that is wider to compensate for the extra forces imposed thereon would be appropriate.

Regarding claims 4,13,14,16,22-26,29,30, the deformable portion (GI OR HJ), as modified by Simon has a first angled portion (C,E, G OR D,F,H), a second angled portion (I, K, M OR J, L, N) and a central portion (GI OR HJ) between the four bends (E,G,I,K OR F,H,J, L), and a flat portion MO OR PN) between deformable portions wherein the deformable portion extends outwardly of the track and the track is coupled to opposite ends of another track near the flat portions.

Applicant's arguments with respect the claims are moot in view of the new ground of rejection

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jeanette Chapman whose telephone number is (571) 272-6841. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 am - 3:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brian Glessner can be reached on (571) 272-6843. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jeanette E Chapman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3633